

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 7, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

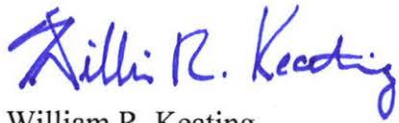
We write to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior and to bring the important issue of illicit and abusive international commercial whaling to your attention. In light of recent evidence regarding the resumption of commercial fin whaling in Iceland, and the legal and ethical ramifications of Iceland's commercial whaling, we urge the Department to take necessary action before these imperiled species disappear from the wild.

As you know, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) established a moratorium on commercial whaling over 30 years ago. However, in spite of this moratorium, Iceland has continued to hunt whales for the purpose of selling fin whale meat. It is anticipated that the 2013 quota for fin whales - a gravely endangered species - may be as high as 184. Further, on May 3, 2013, a series of news agencies in Iceland confirmed that commercial whaling for fin whales in Iceland will likely resume as early as June.

In July 2011, then-Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke certified to President Obama that Iceland was conducting commercial whaling and exporting endangered fin whale meat to foreign nations, practices which diminish the effectiveness of the IWC moratorium and global conservation in general. In concurring with Secretary Locke's certification, the President issued a memorandum on September 15, 2011 to all federal agencies mandating that a series of actions be taken to encourage Iceland to terminate all whaling activities. Among these, the President directed all federal departments and agencies, including the Department of the Interior, to report to him on their actions within six months or upon the resumption of fin whaling.

Thus, we respectfully request that the Department of Interior take action now by (1) certifying, under the Pelly Amendment, that Iceland is undermining the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) by trading in fin meat, and (2) abiding by the Administration's 2011 directives to help bring an end to the destructive practice of whaling in Iceland. The United States once transformed itself from a whaling nation to a model for whale protection; now, it is incumbent upon us to again uphold this model.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Will R. Keating".

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alcee L. Hastings".


Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Moran".

James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry A. Waxman".

Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Loretta Sanchez".

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress